

## Message Text

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CAMBODIA

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT BY  
SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

1. FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS BY SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN  
(D.-S.D.) GIVEN IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 25, 1978, TO FURTHER CLARIFY HIS STATEMENT GIVEN  
EARLIER THIS WEEK ON CAMBODIA.

BEGIN TEXT:

A GENERATION AGO THE WORLD STOOD SILENTLY ON THE SIDELINES  
WHILE HITLER SYSTEMATICALLY EXTERMINATED 6 MILLION OF OUR  
FELLOW HUMANS. WHEN THE FULL HORROR OF THIS GENOCIDE  
FINALLY STRUCK THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY, WE VOWED  
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"NEVER AGAIN." NEVER AGAIN WOULD WE REMAIN SILENT IN THE  
FACE OF SUCH BARBARISM. THERE WAS, OF COURSE, A SPECIAL  
HORROR ABOUT HITLER'S DIABOLICAL PLOT TO EXTERMINATE AN  
ENTIRE PEOPLE IDENTIFIED BY A COMMON RELIGIOUS HERITAGE.  
THE CRIME OF HITLER STANDS ALONE IN ITS TERRIFYING DIMEN-  
SIONS.

BUT, HOWEVER DIFFERENT IN CONCEPT AND EXECUTION, A MASSIVE SLAUGHTER IS ONCE AGAIN TAKING PLACE IN OUR TIME.

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS IN BEAUTIFUL, ANCIENT CAMBODIA, A BAND OF MURDEROUS THUGS HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY KILLING THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS. TWO MILLION CAMBODIANS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. BUT THE WORLD TURNS ITS FACE AND STILLS ITS VOICE AND DULLS ITS CONSCIENCE. NOTHING IS DONE.

THE UNITED NATIONS, CHARGED WITH THE MAINTENANCE OR RESTORATION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, DOES NOTHING. OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, WHILE PROCLAIMING ITS CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IS SEEMINGLY INEFFECTIVE IN CONFRONTING THE ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH IN CAMBODIA. CAMBODIA'S CHIEF ALLY, CHINA, SEEMS TO BE DOING NOTHING TO CONTAIN THE SLAUGHTER; INDEED, IT PROVIDES ARMS AND SUPPORT TO THE CAMBODIAN REGIME.

WE HAVE RIGHTFULLY DEPLORED THE MISTRIAL OF TWO DISSIDENT CITIZENS OF THE SOVIET UNION, BUT WHERE IS OUR VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL COUNCILS ABOUT THE TWO MILLION PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE DIED IN CAMBODIA? DO WE TURN AWAY BECAUSE OF THE BITTER MISTAKES WE MADE FOR SO LONG IN VIETNAM, WHICH HELPED TO UNLEASH THE SAVAGERY OF CAMBODIA? DO WE TURN AWAY BECAUSE CAMBODIA IS SMALL AND WEAK? DO WE TURN UNCLASSIFIED

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AWAY BECAUSE CAMBODIANS ARE ORIENTALS FAR FROM OUR SHORES?

I HATE NEEDLESS AND ILL-CONCEIVED MILITARY VENTURES. THAT IS WHY I OPPOSED OUR MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST HO CHI MINH'S POPULARLY BASED REVOLUTION FOR INDEPENDENCE IN VIETNAM.

BUT TO HATE A NEEDLESS AND FOOLISH INTERVENTION THAT SERVED NO GOOD PURPOSE DOES NOT GIVE US THE EXCUSE TO DO NOTHING IN THE FACE OF MASS MURDER IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE AND UNDER VASTLY DIFFERING CIRCUMSTANCES. CAMBODIA CHALLENGES THE CONSCIENCE AND DECENCY OF THE WORLD. IT CRIES OUT FOR A CAREFULLY CONCEIVED RESPONSE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO END THE SLAUGHTER.

I CALL UPON OUR GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WILL WE WAIT UNTIL 6 MILLION CAMBODIANS HAVE DIED BEFORE WE RECOGNIZE THAT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST IS UNFOLDING IN OUR TIME? OR WILL WE PROCEED UNDER CHAPTER VII OF THE UN CHARTER TO CHALLENGE THE CONSCIENCE AND CIVIL INSTINCTS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN TAKING COLLECTIVE ACTION TO HALT THE

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS?

CAMBODIA PUTS THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE HUMANITY IN ITS STARKEST FORM. IF WE FAIL AT LEAST TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, AND TO SEEK THE ANSWERS, AND TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS, THEN LET US DIP THE STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFESS THE IMPOTENCE OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE WORLD'S MOST FLAGRANT EVIL.

FREQUENTLY, DURING MY LONG YEARS OF OPPOSITION TO OUR INTERFERENCE IN THE VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, I QUOTED EDMUND BURKE'S WORDS: "A CONSCIENTIOUS MAN WOULD BE CAUTIOUS HOW HE DEALT IN BLOOD."  
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BUT I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN INTERFERENCE IS NECESSARY TO STOP NEEDLESS BLOODLETTING. THAT IS WHY AS A YOUNG MAN I VOLUNTEERED WITH MILLIONS OF OTHERS TO HALT THE BLOOD PURGE OF ADOLF HITLER. THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST COUNSEL TOGETHER ON WHAT STEPS ARE MOST APPROPRIATE TO END THE BLOOD PURGE IN CAMBODIA. THAT IS WHY I AUTHORED LEGISLATION THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE CONFEREES ON THIS YEAR'S STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL IN WHICH "CONGRESS URGES THE PRESIDENT TO MOVE AGGRESSIVELY TO SUPPORT MULTILATERAL ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO ENCOURAGE BILATERAL ACTION BY COUNTRIES HAVING MORE EXTENSIVE RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND UGANDA, TO BRING ABOUT A LESSENING OF SUCH BRUTAL AND INHUMANE PRACTICES."

AT THE VERY LEAST, LET US PUT CAMBODIA ON THE AGENDA FOR DEBATE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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